

about forty minutes after first receiving the droplets in my eye, I reached some water and washed it out with plain water. By that time only a little burning sensation remained though hyperemia was still marked. I did not notice any reaction from the few droplets that struck the face in places other than the eye. By the next morning the conjunctiva was only very slightly hyperemic. All symptoms had completely subsided.

I took the insects to my good friend, Professor R. W. Strandtmann of the University of Texas School of Medicine in Galveston. We kept them several days without knowing what to feed them. When bananas were tried, the female seemed to eat some, but the insects did not look too happy, even though they were still in coitus and had been ever since I had found them. After three days the male died and after four days the female died, still in copulation.

The insects were subsequently identified by Dr. A. B. Gurney of the U. S. National Museum as *Anisomorpha ferruginea* (Beauv.). He added that this species is very similar to *A. buprestoides* (Stoll) and may eventually prove to be the same as that species.

The injury to the eye, though painful, was much less severe and of much shorter duration than the case reported by Stewart¹ who gave an account of a similar incident in which vision was impaired for about five days.

Epiperipatus braziliensis (Bouvier) on Barro Colorado Island, Canal Zone

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The interesting note regarding the habitat of *Peripatus* published by Prof. W. A. Hilton (1) brought to mind observations made by Mr. K. E. Frick and the author in late November 1944 on Barro Colorado Island, C. Z.

¹ Stewart, M. A. Phasmid injury to the human eye. Can. Ent. 69: 84-86, 1937.

While in search of beetles in decaying logs, we encountered several specimens of Onychophora, determined as *Epiperipatus braziliensis* (Bouvier) (2). Of the many logs broken open, only two or three contained Onychophora. These logs were very damp. They were located high on the island, far from the drainage streams. Here the specimens were close together working their way under the loose bark and in the runways of the *Passalus* beetles. These specimens all readily emitted the characteristic white slimy, gummy secretion when disturbed. They were all brownish-maroon in color and varied from one inch to two inches in length.

Neither this rotting-log habitat nor the stream bed habitat reported by Prof. Hilton is at all unique for these organisms. These are the normal habitats usually reported for Onychophora.

The apparent controversial report of the Barro Colorado habitats is easily explained by the difference in the date when the two separate observations were made. Prof. Hilton visited the island in March, or during the last part of the dry season. Mr. Frick and I made our observations in late November, or during the last part of the rainy season. It is therefore rather safe to assume that *Epiperipatus* spreads out and inhabits rotting logs during the rainy season when that situation would be damp enough for the needs of these thinly cutinized forms. During the dry season it would not seem unlikely that the only place they would be found would be under stones in stream beds where it would be dampest. Whether there is a migration or not is unknown. Likewise the method *Epiperipatus* utilizes for passing through an unfavorable season of the year is unknown.

REFERENCES

- (1) HILTON, W. A., Jour. Ent. and Zool., 38: 27, 1946.
- (2) CLARK, A. H., and ZETEK, J., Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., vol. 96, No. 3197, 1946, pp. 205-213.